

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

A TEXT-BOOK OF THE DISEASES OF WOMEN. By HENRY J. GARRIGUES, A.M., M.D., containing 310 engravings and colored plates. W. B. Saunders: Philadelphia, 1894.

The purpose of this work as stated by the author is to present a full but concise exposition of the nature and treatment of the diseases peculiar to women. To provide for the busy practitioner a succinct account of the present state of gynaecology, and to supplement the training of that large class of physicians who have not had the advantage of a hospital service.

The author divides the book into two parts,—a general and special division. The first division treats of anatomy, physiology, and treatment in general. The second treats of the diseases peculiar to the special parts of the female genitalia. The chapter on the anatomy of the female pelvic organs cannot be too highly commended. It is a thorough, comprehensive, and detailed exposition, an equal of which is not to be found even in text-books devoted exclusively to that branch.

In the succeeding chapters the author gives his readers a hasty and at times a superficial glance of the subjects discussed. The feeling that one is being drawn along at too rapid a pace is ever present. The desire to stop and question the author's statements, the reasons for which the reader looks in vain, is constant.

The book is especially rich in the subject of treatment. It is here that the author shows a wide knowledge of therapeutics, and a commendable wealth of resource. The chapter on treatment in general will be found full of valuable suggestions. The fact that the author is an original, as well as an earnest worker, is attested by the

numerous instruments and devices which have emanated from him, and to which the reader is introduced in this chapter.

The author's descriptions of operations are particularly lucid, while his use of the diagram in illustrating the details of suturing and the coaptation of parts is exceedingly satisfactory.

The admonition to avoid the risk of repairing the cervix and perineum at the same sitting may appeal with some force to the cautious gynæcologist,—to the skilful surgeon it is ludicrous.

The reader nowhere feels that the author has obtruded his own personality into the text. A choice of several procedures is always given, but the reader must make the selection.

The weight of the author's experience never moves the balance in favor of one method rather than another. A concise opinion of the value of the different procedures; some reasons why one is to be preferred to another; a final summing up, and the deductions of a single principle of treatment would give the work an air of authority which is wanting, and impregnate it with an individuality which the reader misses.

It is this that we expect from one who has so long and prominently figured as a practical educator. It is the absence of this that makes the disappointment greater.

That the author has succeeded in realizing his purpose is true to a limited extent. To the scholar who demands an *ex-cathedra* exposition of the present status of gynæcology this work will be disappointing. The absence of authority which marks its statements, and its failure to elucidate and emphasize the fundamental principles, diminish its value to him.

To the busy practitioner seeking for suggestions, and desiring to enlarge his store of resources, this work is especially commended. He will find that a perusal of its pages will amply repay; from it he will glean many and valuable hints, a large number of which are original with the author.

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